

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 – 46 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and add new claims as follows.

--1 – 46. (Canceled).

1           47. (New)     A medical device for visually indicating a temperature of a medical item  
2 placed therein comprising:  
3           a base and at least first and second panels attached to said base;  
4           a receptacle defined between said first and second panels for receiving said medical item  
5 within said base, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for utilization;  
6 and  
7           a temperature sensor assembly to directly measure medical item temperature and visually  
8 indicate said measured medical item temperature.

1           48. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a temperature sensor disposed within said first panel to directly measure said medical  
3 item temperature.

1           49. (New)     The medical device of claim 48 wherein said receptacle is configured to  
2 enable said medical item to be in thermal relation with said temperature sensor in said first panel  
3 to facilitate temperature measurement.

1           50. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a plurality of temperature sensitive substances each associated with a corresponding  
3 temperature range, wherein each said substance is responsive to a temperature of said medical  
4 item and provides a visual indication of said medical item temperature when said medical item  
5 temperature is within said corresponding temperature range.

1           51. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a temperature sensing strip providing a digital indication of said medical item  
3 temperature.

1           52. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a display to visually indicate said medical item temperature.

1           53. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said first panel includes a handle  
2 to facilitate transport and handling of said medical device.

1           54. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said medical device is attached to  
2 a support structure.

1           55. (New)     The medical device of claim 47 wherein said medical device is attached to  
2 a thermal treatment system.

1           56. (New)     The medical device of claim 52 wherein said display includes a liquid

2 crystal display.

1 57. (New) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a voice synthesizer to provide an audio indication of said medical item temperature.

1 58. (New) The medical device of claim 47 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes an infra-red temperature sensor.

1 59. (New) A method of visually indicating a temperature of a medical item placed in  
2 a medical device, wherein said medical device includes a base and at least first and second  
3 panels attached to said base and a receptacle defined between said first and second panels, said  
4 method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) receiving said medical item within said receptacle defined between said first and  
6 second panels of said device, wherein said medical item has a particular temperature range for  
7 utilization; and

8 (b) directly measuring medical item temperature and providing a visual indication of  
9 said measured medical item temperature via a temperature sensor assembly.

1 60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a temperature sensor disposed within said first panel, and step (b) further includes:

3 (b.1) directly measuring said medical item temperature via said temperature sensor.

1 61. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said receptacle is configured to enable

2 said medical item to be in thermal relation with said temperature sensor in said first panel to  
3 facilitate temperature measurement.

1 62. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a plurality of temperature sensitive substances each associated with a corresponding  
3 temperature range, wherein each said substance is responsive to a temperature of said medical  
4 item, and step (b) further includes:

5 (b.1) measuring and visually indicating said medical item temperature via each  
6 temperature sensitive substance when said medical item temperature is within a corresponding  
7 temperature range of that substance.

1 63. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a temperature sensing strip, and step (b.1) further includes:

3 (b.1.1) measuring said medical item temperature and providing a digital indication of  
4 said measured temperature via said temperature sensing strip.

1 64. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said temperature sensor assembly  
2 includes a display, and step (b) further includes:

3 (b.1) visually indicating said medical item temperature via said display.

1 65. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein said first panel includes a handle, and  
2 step (a) further includes:

3 (a.1) transporting and handling said medical device via said handle.

1 66. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein step (a) further includes:

2 (a.1) attaching said medical device to a support structure.

1 67. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein step (a) further includes:

2 (a.1) attaching said medical device to a thermal treatment system.

1 68. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein step (b) further includes:

2 (b.1) providing an audio indication of said medical item temperature via a voice

3 synthesizer. --